

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01945 01 OF 02 191421Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 CU-04

EUR-12 /090 W

-----100925 191505Z /50

R 191227Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5142

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: SPEECHES OF PNC GENERAL SECRETARY AND PNC CHAIRMAN AT
BIENNIAL CONGRESS

REF: GEORGETOWN 1888

BEGIN SUMMARY:. SPEECHES OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC)
CHAIRMAN (CAMMIE) RAMSAROOP AND GENERAL SECRETARY PTOLEMY
REID TO OPENING SESSION OF PNC BIENNIAL CONGRESS ATTACKED
OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY(PPP), CALLED FOR
GREATER DISCIPLINE BY PARTY MEMBERS, AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE
OF IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING. SPEECHES DEVELOPED THEMES THAT
HAVE BEEN PROMINENT IN PARTY RHETORIC AND MADE NO NEW
DEPARTURES. FRANK TONE OF SPEECHES VIRTUALLY ADMITTING
THAT THERE IS CRISIS MAY BE INDICATION THAT LEADERSHIP
HAS DECIDED TO CONFRONT REAL PROBLEMS IN PARTY, BUT RATHER
MUNDANE TONE MAY INDICATE THAT NO MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES
ARE BEING PLANNED. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01945 01 OF 02 191421Z

1. SPEECH OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) CHAIRMAN
CAMMIE RAMSAROOP TO OPENING SESSION OF PNC BIENNIAL CONGRESS
WAS CARRIED LIVE ON GOVERNMENT OWNED RADIO STATION. HIS SPEECH
AND SUBSEQUENT BIENNIAL REPORT BY PNC GENERAL SECRETARY
PTOLEMY REID TO CLOSED SESSION FOCUSSED ON IMPORTANCE
OF COMBATING INTERNAL DESTABILISATION BY OPPOSITION

PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), OF DEVELOPING GREATER SENSE OF DISCIPLINE TO STRENGTHEN PNC AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, AND OF PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING IN SOCIALIST THOUGHT.

2. RAMSAROOP STATED THAT IDEOLOGICAL OBJECTIVE OF CREATING SOCIALIST STATE HAS BEEN SETTLED, BUT TASK NOW IS TO GRASP IMPLICATIONS OF REVOLUTION AND CLASS STRUGGLE. PNC MUST CULTIVATE GREATER DISCIPLINE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY. RAMSAROOP ACKNOWLEDGED SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FACING NATION, BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PNC LEADERSHIP CAN PULL COUNTRY OUT OF THIS SITUATION.

3. RAMSAROOP DEALT AT LENGTH WITH INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, NOTING CHALLENGES BEING MOUNTED FROM RIGHT AND LEFT. PPP CRITICAL SUPPORT HAD PROVEN TO BE MERE PLATITUDE, AND NEW POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS WERE BEING FORMED. SIMILARLY, FORCES OF REACTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION WANT TO THWART PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION. HOPE OF RESTORATION LINGERS IN HEARTS OF THE EXPLOITERS AND THEY WILL NOT READILY RELINQUISH IT. TO COUNTER THESE FORCES, UNITY OF WORKING PEOPLE MUST BE FOSTERED. PNC MUST OPPOSE THOSE WHO EXPLOIT RACIAL ANTIPATHIES TO DIVIDE MASSES, AND CUT ACROSS RACIAL BARRIERS TO INVOLVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE IN PROCESS OF NATION BUILDING. WORKING CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS RATHER THAN PIGMENTATION
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PAGE 03 GEORGE 01945 01 OF 02 191421Z

SHOULD DETERMINE MEMBERSHIP IN PNC.

4. FINALLY, RAMSAROOP WELCOMED PNC'S EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH FRATERNAL PARTIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT PNC MUST ESCHEW ALL STEREOTYPE CONCEPTS AND SUPPOSEDLY IDENTICAL RULES FOR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE. EVERY REVOLUTION IS CARRIED OUT IN UNIQUE CONTEXT, AND EVERY TRANSITION PERIOD TOWARDS SOCIALISM MUST EVOLVE AS PART OF HISTORICAL PROCESS. DOGMATIC RULES CANNOT BE FOLLOWED.

5. IN HIS REPORT, GENERAL SECRETARY REID REITERATED THEMES DEVELOPED BY RAMSAROOP AND ALSO GAVE DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF PNC STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES OVER PAST TWO YEARS. REID ATTACKED PPP CRITICAL SUPPORT AS RUSE EMPLOYED TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND TO BARGAIN FOR POWER. PPP HAS TRIED TO UNDERMINE ECONOMY THROUGH GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND IT HAS BEEN FORMING WORKING ALLIANCES WITH OTHER ULTRA LEFT GROUPS. TO COUNTER "THESE AGENTS OF DESTABILIZATION," THE PNC HAD CONTINUED TO RESTRUCTURE ECONOMY AND SOCIALIZE OWNERSHIP FOR BENEFIT OF MASSES.

REID CALLED FOR IMPROVED DISCIPLINE TO DEFEAT ENEMIES
WITHIN AND WITHOUT RANKS OF PNC. ATTENDANCE AT PARTY
GROUP MEETINGS MUST BE IMPROVED AND AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM
OF IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE.

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01945 02 OF 02 191440Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1945

6. MOST OF REID'S SPEECH WAS DETAILED REPORT ON PARTY
STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES. THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER WITH
THAT FROM OTHER SOURCES WILL BE REPORTED IN AIRGRAM TO
FOLLOW. AMONG OTHER TOPICS, REID DISCUSSED PARTY
MEMBERSHIP; IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COURSES--SUFFERING FROM
LACK OF TEACHERS AND POOR ATTENDANCE; AND RELATIONS WITH
FOREIGN PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

7. COMMENT WHILE SPEECHES CONTAINED EXPECTED REFERENCES
TO IMPORTANCE OF IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING, MOST OF RHETORIC
WAS DEVOTED TO MORE PRAGMATIC NECESSITY OF FOSTERING
DISCIPLINE TO COUNTER DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION
AND INTERNAL DESTABILIZATION. SPEECHES WERE MILD AND
MODERATE. THEY DID NOT CALL FOR ANY NEW DRAMATIC
STEPS TO REPRESS OPPOSITION OR TO MODIFY EXISTING
INSTITUTIONS. THEY LEFT FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO BE DISCUSSED
BY PRIME MINISTER ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. THESE SPEECHES
FURTHER DEVELOP THEMES THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED STATEMENTS
OF PNC AND GOG LEADERS OVER PAST SIX MONTHS. REID'S
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01945 02 OF 02 191440Z

SPEECH WAS IN SOME WAYS SURPRISINGLY FRANK IN ITS
ADMISSION OF POOR ATTENDANCE, POOR QUALITY OF IDEOLOGI-
CAL TRAINING, AND LACK OF DISCIPLINE. IT APPEARS THAT
PNC HAS DECIDED NOT TO CAMOUFLAGE REAL PROBLEMS FACING
PARTY, PERHAPS IN EFFORT TO STIMULATE MORE ZEALOUS
ACTIVITY BY PARTY MEMBERS. THE COMMENTS BY RAMSAROOP
AND REID THAT GUYANA SHOULD ESCHEW STEREOTYPED CONCEPTS,
AND DOGMATIC RULES FOR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE
WERE DESIGNED TO COUNTER ARGUMENTS BY THE PPP AND THE
SOVIETS THAT THE PNC DOES NOT ADHERE TO TRUE SOCIALIST
PRINCIPLES. THESE STATEMENTS COULD ALSO BE PREPARING
THE WAY FOR CONGRESS DECISIONS TO PUBLICLY OPEN GUYANA'S
DOORS TO FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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